

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 106703

15

ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66613

DRAFTED BY: NEA/INS:RDLORTON

APPROVED BY: NEA/INS:DKUX

NEA/PAB:DMCOCHRAN

----- 116262

R 220021Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 106703

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 4886 ACTION DEPT INFO NEW DELHI LAHORE
KARACHI DACCA KABUL HONG KONG LONDON MOSCOW OTTAWA PARIS PEKING
TEHRAN ANKARA USUN NEW YORK MAY 21ST
QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4886

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, PINT, IN, PK

SUBJ: PAKISTAN'S REACTION TO INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

REF: ISLAMABAD 4833; LAHORE 0731

SUMMARY: INDIAN EXPLOSION OF NUCLEAR DEVICE HAS HAD
PROFOUND EFFECT ON PAKISTAN, BOTH IN TERMS OF HEIGHTENED
PUBLIC SENSE OF INSECURITY AND CHALLENGE TO GOP GOAL OF
MAINTAINING FULL "SOVEREIGN EQUALITY" WITH INDIA.
GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS DOWNPLAYED MILITARY

THREAT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND BHUTTO HAS PROJECTED IMAGE
OF VIGOROUS DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO SECURE CREDIBLE OUTSIDE
SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN'S SECURITY. PAK MILITARY WILL BE
RETHINKING CONTINGENCY PLANS BUT INITIAL COMMENT INTER-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 106703

PRETEND INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AS PUSH FOR PRESTIGE AND

HIGHLIGHTED PAK'S NEED FOR EFFECTIVE, BUT CONVENTIONAL, DETERRENT TO INDIAN THREAT. THE IMPACT ON FUTURE OF INDO-PAK RELATIONS WILL DEPEND UPON BHUTTO'S ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC SUPPORT TO HIS SOUTH ASIAN POLICY OF NORMALIZATION, BUT PUBLIC SKEPTICISM OVER INDIA'S PEACEFUL INTENTION WILL LIMIT GOP'S OPTIONS IN COMING TO TERMS WITH ITS MORE POWERFUL NEIGHBOR. PAK-US RELATIONS MAY BE STRAINED AS GOP PRESSES HARDER FOR LOW COST BUT HIGH QUALITY US MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND POLITICAL SUPPORT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH INDIA. END SUMMARY.

1. REACTION, GENERAL. INDIAN EXPLOSION OF NUCLEAR DEVICE ON MAY 18 HAS HAD PROFOUND AND DEEP EFFECT ON PAKISTAN. ITS BASIC CHALLENGE TO GOP GOAL OF MAINTAINING FULL "SOVEREIGN EQUALITY" WITH INDIA WILL FORCE A RETHINKING OF GOP STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL PRIORITIES, RESULTS OF WHICH CAN ONLY EMERGE SLOWLY OVER MONTHS TO COME. NEVERTHELESS, SUFFICIENT OFFICIAL AND OTHER REACTION IS AVAILABLE IN FIRST TWO POST-BOMB DAYS TO MAKE POSSIBLE THIS PRELIMINARY READING.

2. OFFICIAL GOP RESPONSE. REACTION AT OFFICIAL GOP LEVEL CAME OUT INITIALLY IN STATEMENTS OF MFA SPOKESMAN ON DAY OF EXPLOSION (ISLAMABAD REFTEL). STATEMENTS CONTAINED PREDICTABLE CRITICISMS OF INDIANS FOR SHATTERING WORLD NUCLEAR BALANCE, FOR EVOLVING NEW THREAT TO SECURITY OF AREA, AND FOR VIOLATING NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (DISREGARDING FACT THAT DELHI WAS NOT SIGNATORY). MAJOR PRESENTATION OF GOP POSITION, HOWEVER, CAME IN BHUTTO'S LAHORE SPEECH ON MAY 19 (LAHORE 0731). IN DISCURSIVE 40-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE CARRIED OVER NATIONAL RADIO, PRIME MINISTER RE-EMPHASIZED MFA SPOKESMAN'S CRITICISMS AND ADDED EMBELLISHMENTS OF HIS OWN. IN BRIEF, BHUTTO CALLED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE CREDIBLE NUCLEAR UMBRELLA TO THE NON-NUCLEAR STATES THREATENED BY NUCLEAR "BLACKMAIL", AND PLEDGED HIS GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE A VALIANT, DISCIPLINED EFFORT TO RAPIDLY DEVELOP PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. ALTHOUGH BHUTTO RESTATED THE GOP DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 106703

ALONG THE SIMLA PATH - TO WORK FOR NORMAL RELATIONS ON THE SUBCONTINENT - THE PRIME MINISTER LEFT HIS LISTENERS WITH CLEAR MESSAGE THAT HE WAS DETERMINED NOT TO PERMIT INDIAN ACHIEVEMENT TO ADVERSELY AFFECT PAKISTAN'S LEGITIMATE OBJECTIVES IN KASHMIR AND OTHER ASPECTS BILATERAL INDO-PAK RELATIONS.

3. MILITARY. PAK MILITARY HAS MADE NO PUBLIC STATE-

MENTS NOR IS IT POSSIBLE AT MOMENT TO UNEARTH ANY DEFINITIVE MILITARY REACTION TO INDIAN NUCLEAR EVENT. ALTHOUGH PAKS HAVE BEEN PREDICTING AN INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION SINCE ABOUT 1969, OUR SOURCES AGREE THAT PAK MILITARY WILL ALSO BE ENGAGED IN THOROUGH RETHINKING OF THEIR CONTINGENCY PLANS. DESPITE LACK OF INDIAN SOPHISTICATED DELIVERY SYSTEM, AREAS SUCH AS KARACHI AND LAHORE ARE SO CLOSE AS TO MAKE THEM VULNERABLE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SHORT TIME FRAME. NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES (REPORTED IN IR-6-873-0108-74 OF MAY 20) THAT INDIANS WOULD NOT ACTUALLY USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST PAKISTAN. INDIA'S PURPOSE IN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR CAPABILITY SEEN AS MEANS TO INCREASE ITS PRESTIGE, POWER AND INFLUENCE, THE OBJECTIVE BEING HEGEMONY IN SUBCONTINENT. DDGI ARGUED AGAINST CRASH PROGRAM TO DEVELOP THE BOMB: PAK RESOURCES TOO SMALL AND COST SO HIGH AS TO BLEED PAK ECONOMY; FURTHERMORE, PRIORITY NEED IS FOR MORE MODERN CONVENTIONAL MILITARY CAPABILITY.

4. PRESS. BOTH GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED AND OPPOSITION PRESS CONTINUE TO GIVE DEVELOPMENT HEAVY PLAY. COMMENTARIES GENERALLY FOLLOW LINE OF CHAUDHRY'S ARTICLE IN MAY 19 PAK TIMES (ISLAMABAD REFTEL). PAPERS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY QUICK TO PICK UP AND FEATURE NEGATIVE FOREIGN REACTION TO INDIAN MOVE; FOR EXAMPLE, CANADIANS WERE QUOTED AS CHARACTERIZING THE INDIAN TEST AS "REGRETABLE", SAYING THAT "CANADA HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED TO ALL FORMS OF NUCLEAR TESTING" . . . AND SAW NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS CARRIED OUT FOR PEACEFUL AND MILITARY PURPOSES". U.S. STATEMENT OF MAY 18 (AGAINST NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION) WAS NOTED ALONG WITH SPECULATION OF RESULTING DIFFICULTY IN INDO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 106703

U.S. RELATIONS. THE VERNACULAR PRESS, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, HAS CLEARLY ARTICULATED FEAR OF INDIA'S WILLINGNESS TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST ITS TRADITIONAL MUSLIM ENEMY--PAKISTAN--AND ANXIETY ABOUT AN INDIAN DRIVE FOR REGIONAL HEGEMONY. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS TENDED TO ARGUE THAT NUCLEAR DETONATION A MATTER OF ENHANCED "PRESTIGE" FOR INDIA - RATHER THAN A MILITARY OPTION - AND THAT GOI PURPOSE WAS TO DISTRACT PUBLIC AND LIFT MORALE IN LIGHT ON SERIOUS INDIAN ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS AND SOCIAL DISCONTENT.

5. POPULAR REACTION. INFORMED PAKISTANIS ESTIMATE THAT PAKISTAN GENERAL PUBLIC HOLDS UNSOPHISTICATED BUT FIRM VIEW THAT INDIAN EXPLOSION REPRESENTS NEW

THREAT TO PAKISTAN. CONGEN LAHORE INFORMS US THAT, WHILE THERE NO EVIDENT NERVOUSNESS, MOST CONTACTS DOUBT INDIAN "PEACEFUL PURPOSES", AND THAT THREAT TO PAK SECURITY MAY - IN SHORT-RUN - HELP BHUTTO GAIN SOME POLITICAL COHESION IN FACTION-TORN PUNJAB AND PROVIDE FRESH RATIONALE FOR ECONOMIC BELT-TIGHTENING ACCORDING TO CONGEN KARACHI LOCAL REACTION OF INFORMED PAKISTANIS IS CRITICISM FOR BLAST'S DESTABILIZING IMPACT ON INDO-PAK RELATIONS AND DEPRIVATION NEEDY INDIAN PEOPLE TO FINANCE "MILITARY MACHINE". APPEARS LIKELY POPULACE WILL BE CAREFULLY WATCHING BHUTTO AND GOP LEADERSHIP BOTH FOR GUIDANCE AND FOR EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO COUNTER THREAT.

6. DOMESTIC POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS. POPULAR NERVOUSNESS OVER INDIA ACHIEVEMENT MARKS IT AS IMPORTANT DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE IN PAKISTAN. BHUTTO, IN MAY 19 SPEECH, CHARACTERIZED PAKISTAN'S ANXIETY AS "UNPARALLELED", AND ALTHOUGH THAT APPEARS TO BE EXAGGERATION IN VIEW OF PAST DISASTERS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT BHUTTO WILL TAILOR HIS POLICY VIS-A-VIS INDIA TO SUIT HIS ASSESSMENT OF POPULAR SUPPORT.

7, COMMENT. PRELIMINARY REACTION IN FIRST DAYS AFTER INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION LARGELY REFLECTS GOVERNMENT-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 106703

CONTROLLED MEDIA REPORTAGE AND INTERPRETATIONS PLUS PRIME MINISTER'S PUBLIC SPEECH WHICH ATTEMPTS TO DOWNPLAY THREAT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND REASSURE PUBLIC THAT VIGOROUS DIPLOMATIC EFFORT UNDERWAY TO SECURE CREDIBLE OUTSIDE SUPPORT (SEE LAHORE REFTEL FOR APPROACHES TO US, UK, FRANCE, CANADA, CHINA AND SOVIET UNION). FOR PROGRESS IN IRONING OUT INDO-PAK DIFFERENCES MUCH WILL DEPEND IN COMING DAYS UPON GOP'S ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC MOOD, WHETHER EARLIER DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR BHUTTO'S SOUTH ASIAN POLICY REMAINS OR WHETHER IT HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY ERODED BY THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT. EVEN AT BEST, PUBLIC DOUBTS ABOUT INDIAN INTENTIONS WILL LIMIT GOP STYLE. BHUTTO MAY FIND NEGOTIATING WITH INDIA MORE SLOW AND DIFFICULT, EVEN ON THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, IF HE HAS TO TALK TOUGH PUBLICLY WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SMOOTH OUT DIFFERENCES PRIVATELY WITH THE INDIANS IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIMSELF FROM ACCUSATIONS OF APPEASEMENT OF SELL-OUT TO NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL.

8. IN TERMS OF US-PAK RELATIONS, THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL

STRAINS AS THE GOP PRESSES HARDER FOR
LOW COST BUT HIGH QUALITY US MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND
POLITICAL SUPPORT TO PAKISTAN IN ITS QUARRELS WITH INDIA.
TO EXTENT PAKISTAN FINDS ITSELF PSYCHOLOGICALLY IN A
WEAKENED POSITION VIS-A-VIS INDIA AS RESULT ON INDIA'S
BECOMING MEMBER OF NUCLEAR CLUB, US LIKELY TO BE CALLED
UPON FOR GREATER SUPPORT IN ASSISTING PAKISTAN TO
MAINTAIN ITS DIGNITY AND ENABLE IT DEAL WITH INDIA ON
BASIS OF "SOVEREIGN EQUALITY". AS FOR PAK DESIRE FOR
STRONG CRITICISM OF INDIA, PAK TIMES
EDITORIAL OF MAY 21 POINTS THE WAS: "IT IS TIME FOR THE
AFRO-ASIAN NATIONS TO PRESSURIZE (SIC) THE SUPER-
POWERS TO PUT A TOTAL EMBARGO ON THE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR
MATERIALS TO INDIA". FURTHERMORE, THE EDITORIAL POINTS
OUT THAT OTHER NON-NUCLEAR POWERS WILL BE TEMPTED TO
GO NUCLEAR UNLESS STRONG ACTION IS TAKEN AGAINST INDIA
AND SUGGEST THA IT BE EXPELLED FROM THE GOVERNING
BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY.
LUPPI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 06 STATE 106703

UNQUOTE RUSH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, NUCLEAR TESTS, UNDERGROUND EXPLOSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE106703
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/INS:RDLORTON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740127-0477
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740526/aaaaawxg.tel
Line Count: 249
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ISLAMABAD 4833; LAHORE 0731
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <26 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAKISTAN'S REACTION TO INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION
TAGS: TECH, PFOR, PINT, IN, PK
To: KATHMANDU COLOMBO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005